CHOCTAW COUNTY

Honorable Pedro Scurlock, III

Choctaw County Courthouse
117 South Mulberry St.
Butler, AL 36904
(205) 459-3828

LaTonya Wells	Charlotte Abston	Jennifer Blount
William R. Boggs	Thomas Jackson	Shirley Johnson
Perry Newton	W.H. "Pat" Lindsey	Elaine Alberson
Barbara Shoemaker	Elaine Shields	Karen Enstrom
Bobby Ridgeway	Sheri Downey	Isabella Harrell
Tony Cherry	Thomas Jackson	Sadie Lopez

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a family resource center

2. Locate local resources and service providers

3. Increase parental involvement and skills

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Lack of transportation for children to receive health/medical care in or out of the county

Policy Council Action Steps:
- Public transportation
- utilize church buses/vans
- secure funding

Lack of after hours and weekend medical care/mental health care

Policy Council Action Steps:
- work with USA and UA to provide medical students to work in clinics
- use ambulance personnel
- secure funding

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Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Juvenile substance abuse prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:
- ask local community centers to sponsor substance abuse education programs targeting juveniles
- solicit the community to ask Commissioners/legislators to enact new laws for stricter enforcement/punishment of offenders
- establish a council in each school to target youth 14 years of age and older to educate them on the dangers of substance abuse (alcohol).

Delinquency prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:
- hold parents/guardians responsible for the actions of their juveniles
- educate parents/youth on the consequences of future delinquent acts by mandating them to a court referral program

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Tutorial Program

Policy Council Action Steps:
- collaborate with the board of education to address the academic needs of students by providing an after-school tutoring program
- locate a school or a facility to host the tutorial program
- provide a program for extracurricular activities (i.e. drama, performing arts, etc.)

Early Care and Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Educate parents on child development milestones

Policy Council Action Steps:
- secure Kidstuff parenting kits for parents of children 0-5 years old

Economic Security - Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Secure more financial opportunities for families

Policy Council Action Steps:
- secure funding to educate citizens on small business development
- provide a job readiness program to adults/youth
- secure a resource center to host multiple training programs
- obtain assistance from the Black Belt Action Commission

Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Mentoring

Policy Council Action Steps:
- incorporate teen camps via church involvement in the community
- incorporate positive male role models program
- incorporate positive peer to peer role model programs

Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Policy Council Action Steps:
- secure funding for parenting programs through children's trust fund
- educate parents about the signs and symptoms of substance abuse
- provide a parenting program to address various parenting styles

Policy Recommendation

1. Relieve the Juvenile/District Judge from the duty of chairing the CPC.

2. Provide more funding to Children First Trust Fund to provide more services.

3. Locate funding for sustainability for existing programs through the CPC.

4. Implement more assistance for children services in the black belt regions.